

Raleigh, 78 miles northwest; Wilmington, 89 miles south; New Bern, 34 miles southeast; and Greenville, 28 miles northeast.

The land on which Kinston is located varies in elevation from approximately twenty-five feet above sea level, near the Neuse River, to approximately one hundred feet above sea level in the northwest areas of Kinston. The central area, the area of the Central Business District, has an approximate elevation of forty feet above sea level.

Soils in and near Kinston range from the well drained soils (Norfolk, Kalmia, Dunbar, Ruston, Lenoir, and Caholia series) to the more poorly drained soils (Okenee, Leaf, Portsmouth, Plummer, Bladin, Coxville, Leon, and Johnston soils). Maps A and B reflect general topography and soil locations.

The Neuse River and the Adkin Branch with their tributaries are the primary drainage outlets for Kinston. The Neuse River borders the southernmost edge of the city limits of Kinston; Adkin Branch bisects the northeastern and southeastern areas of Kinston and emptys into the Neuse River. Close attention should be given to Map C (Growth Patterns), and Map B (Soils) for the purpose of evaluating proper growth patterns. A detailed evaluation of growth patterns will be discussed further in this publication.

Population

Prior to 1900 Kinston was a small town with the main purpose of being a governmental center for Lenoir County and a trade center for the surrounding rural areas. At the turn of the century, Kinston began to grow as an expanded trade, tobacco sales, and